Early and favorable consideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Encl: Marked Version** 

## **MARKED VERSION**

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

- -32. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding bentonite to the particulate material.
- 33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the amount of bentonite is up to about 0.22%.
- 34. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising adding bentonite to the particulate material.
- 35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the amount of bentonite is up to about 0.22%.
- 36. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising adding bentonite to the particulate material.
- 37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the amount of bentonite is up to about 0.22%.
- 38. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising adding bentonite to the particulate material.
- 39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of bentonite is up to about 0.22%.
- 40. (New) A method for agglomerating particulate material comprising: adding to the particulate material a binding effective amount of an inorganic binder

and sodium citrate; and forming the particulate material into agglomerates.

- 41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the inorganic binder is bentonite.
- 42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the particulate material is a metal containing ore.
- 43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the metal containing ore is iron ore.
- 44. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising adding to the particulate material sodium carbonate and caustic.
- 45. (New) A method for agglomerating particulate material comprising: chelating interfering elements in or on the particulate material; adding to the particulate material a binding effective amount of an inorganic binder; and forming the particulate material into agglomerates.
- 46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the inorganic binder is bentonite.
- 47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of chelating includes adding to the particulate material sodium citrate, tetra-sodium EDTA, ether sequestering agents, oxalates, or mixtures thereof.
- 48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of chelating includes adding sodium citrate to the particulate material and the inorganic binder is bentonite.
- 49. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the particulate material is a metal containing ore.

- 50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the metal containing ore is iron ore.
- 51. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising adding to the particulate material sodium carbonate and caustic.
- 52. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the interfering elements are sulfur, manganese, ferrous hydroxides, Ca <sup>2+</sup> ions, Mg <sup>2+</sup> ions or mixtures thereof.--